

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 05497 231338Z

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SER/CFS AND A/AID FOR KENDRICK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, KU

SUBJECT: COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES: MOSER/DODSON VISIT

REF: STATE 283672

1. EMBASSY AND MOSER/DODSON FOUND REFTEL VERY TIMELY.

2. MOSER/DODSON AND DCM CALLED ON ABDUL LATIF AL-BAHAR, DIRECTOR, PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, NOVEMBER 20. THEY TOLD AL-BAHAR THEY UNDERSTOOD GOK DESIRE TO WORK THROUGH AMB. JAFFAR IN SEEKING CONSULTANTS ON ADMINISTRATIVE REORGANIZATION. AL-BAHAR SAID HE WISHED TO BE FRANK AND HOPED WE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT GOK HAD CONCLUDED THAT TOO CLOSE A GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONSHIP ON THIS PROJECT MIGHT BE MISUNDERSTOOD "BY OTHERS WHO WERE ALWAYS WATCHING." HE SAID VARIOUS OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAD OFTEN PROPOSED CLOSER TIES WITH KUWAIT WHICH GOK WAS ANXIOUS TO AVOID. AL BAHAR'S IMPLICATION WAS THAT AN AGREEMENT WITH USG TO HANDLE SUCH A SWEEPING, MAJOR PROJECT WOULD BE SOMETHING OF AN EMBARRASSMENT TO GOK VIS-A-VIS CERTAIN OTHER ARAB AND THIRD WORLD FRIENDS AND OTHERS.

3. MOSER/DODSON AND DCM EXPRESSED COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF GOK POSITION. THEY EVINced CONTINUED INTEREST IN SUCCESS OF GOK REORGANIZATION EFFORTS AND WILLINGNESS TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 05497 231338Z

GOK MIGHT WISH. DODSON EMPHASIZED CAPABILITY OF OFFICE OF

COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES (CFS) TO PUT AMBASSADOR JAFFAR DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH TRULY IMPARTIAL PRIVATE SECTOR CONSULTANTS. VISITORS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT WHILE THEY UNDERSTOOD KUWAITI DESIRE TO FOREGO A GLOBAL AGREEMENT WITH USG ON THE REORGANIZATION PROJECT, THERE MIGHT BE PORTIONS OF THE TOTAL TASK FOR WHICH USG EXPERTS MIGHT BE UNIQUELY QUALIFIED AND WHOSE ASSISTANCE GOK MIGHT FIND ACCEPTABLE. COMPARING THIS PROSPECT WITH PRESENT SITUATION WITH AMERICAN EXPERTS WORKING WITH KUWAITI HOUSING AUTHORITY, ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS DEVELOPMENT, AND IN OTHER AREAS, THEY SUGGESTED SPECIFICALLY POSSIBILITY OF PROVIDING A CONSULTANT IN AREA OF SOCIAL SECURITY. AL-BAHAR INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR JAFFAR WAS SEIZED OF THE WHOLE MATTER AND AL-BAHAR WOULD GIVE NO OPINION CONCERNING THE SUGGESTION.

4. MOSER/DODSON AND DCM THEN CALLED ON MFA UNDERSECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID INTRODUCING DODSON AS REGIONAL ATTACHE FOR COUNTRY FINANCED SERVICES. AL-RASHID LISTENED TO BRIEF EXPLANATION OF CFS OBJECTIVES AND CAPABILITIES. IN CORDIAL REPLY HE NOTED THAT KUWAITIS IN GENERAL ARE MUCH TRAVELED, SOPHISTICATED PEOPLE WHO KNOW WHAT THEY WANT AND HOW TO GET IT. HE REMARKED THAT CFS PROGRAM SEEMED AIMED PRIMARILY AT DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHO DID NOT KNOW WHAT MUST BE DONE TO ACHIEVE DEVELOPMENT. AL-RASHID CITED GREAT KUWAITI ACHIEVEMENTS IN DEVELOPMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE IMPLYING THAT HE SAW LITTLE SCOPE IN KUWAIT FOR CFS "HONEST BROKER" ROLE.

5. AS WITH AL-BAHAR, MOSER/DODSON AND DCM EXPRESSED FULL SATISFACTION WITH GOK PERCEPTION AND WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH AMBASSADOR JAFFAR IN ANY WAY. AL-RASHID REAFFIRMED HIS INTEREST IN BRINGING AMERICAN EXPERTISE TO BEAR ON THE REORGANIZATION PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HAD INSTRUCTED AMB. JAFFAR TO BE IN TOUCH WITH MR. MOSER IN WASHINGTON. JAFFAR WOULD BE RETURNING TO KUWAIT ON CONSULTATION COMMENCING DECEMBER 20 AND AL-RASHID WOULD DISCUSS THE WHOLE SUBJECT WITH HIM.

6. COMMENT: IN DISCUSSIONS WITH MOSER/DODSON PRIOR TO CALLS DESCRIBED ABOVE, AMBASSADOR AND DCM HAD MADE POINT THAT KUWAITIS WERE NOT LIKELY TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO, AND WERE LIKELY TO MISUNDERSTAND, VIGOROUS PROMOTIONAL EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF REIMBURSABLE CFS PROGRAMS GENERALLY. ACCORDINGLY, AMERICAN VISITORS PLAYED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 05497 231338Z

DOWN THIS ASPECT DURING THEIR CALLS. AL-RASHID'S DISQUISITION REENFORCED SOUNDNESS OF THIS APPROACH.

7. MISS SHAYJI WAS UNABLE TO RECEIVE MOSER AND DODSON AS HOPED. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT SHE IS RELUCTANT TO PURSUE SUBJECT OF CFS INVOLVEMENT, PERHAPS IN LIGHT OF GOK'S DECISION TO DOWNPLAY GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONTACT ON THE REORGANIZATION PROJECT, ALTHOUGH THIS IS UNCLEAR AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY WILL

FOLLOW UP WITH HER AND ASCERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE WISE TO GO
AHEAD WITH VISIT INVITATION OR OTHER CONTACTS DESIGNED IN PART
TO ENCOURAGE USE OF CFS PROGRAMS IN KUWAIT.
MAESTRONE

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